

Times Features

Sense of community makes Evergreen a special place to live

By Councilmember Rose Herrera
Special to the Times

What makes Evergreen a special place to live is our wonderfully diverse community and great opportunities for both volunteerism and recreation.

It is an amazing fact that Evergreen is home to the largest Sikh Gurdwara (temple) in the country. The temple complex is beautiful and truly iconic in its design. Sunday, April 10, marked the Grand Opening of the new expanded facilities, which include a new hall, classrooms, and dining facility.

The temple welcomed the entire community to an open house on Saturday, April 9, which featured tours, food, and an introduction to the Sikh religion. The following day, I was joined by California Gov. Brown and Mayor Reed to formally acknowledge and celebrate this important milestone for the 5,000 member strong San José Sikh community. It was a truly remarkable day and congratulations to the entire organizers for such a successful event.

Every spring our little league baseball and softball teams hold their season openers and jamborees. This year, the weather played hard ball and forced games to be cancelled and rescheduled.

Congratulations to Evergreen Little League, the largest league in San José, as they held their annual jamboree at Chaboya Middle School on April 10. It was exciting to see the kids, families, and volunteers excited for the new season.

I was honored to throw out the first pitch at the Eastridge Little League game on April 3 and to recite the little league preamble: "The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of Sportsmanship, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good Citizenship."



District 8 Report

By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

These are words to live by on and off the field.

The East Hills Little League jamboree was also rained out and I wish them the very best for a great and successful season. I'm proud to have all of these leagues in our community and commend the parents, players, coaches, and community for supporting youth sports and teaching the values of sportsmanship and fair play.

Keeping our neighborhoods clean is a goal that all of us can help achieve. Our annual Great American Litter Pick Up is a perfect opportunity to motivate and focus on cleaning up our community. On March 19, I was thrilled to see almost 300 District 8 volunteers cleaning up their community in the rain. This year, our motivated District 8 volunteers gathered at

the Smythe Boys and Girls Club kick-off site to get their supplies and then were dispatched to areas throughout our community.

This annual clean up focuses on picking up trash and debris around our local neighborhoods. If you have never been involved in this event think about doing so next year. It only takes a few hours and kids of all ages can participate.

Once again, I'm proud to co-sponsor the Second Annual 5K Rabbit Run/Walk on Saturday,

April 16 at Lake Cunningham Park. This "fun-pettive" walk/run benefits District 8 youth scholarships for parks and recreation classes and activities. Please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/district8 to get all the details.

As always, my staff and I are committed to helping you in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at district8@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 535-4908 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Speak up for better education

By Supervisor Dave Cortese
Special to the Times

Are you concerned about the funding cuts that are hitting our schools? I certainly am.

Over the past few years, our schools have lost teachers, libraries, sports programs, art and music programs, clubs and more. They have delayed buying new textbooks and have increased class sizes. All of this is detrimental to the quality of our students' education.

If you too are concerned, then I would like to invite you to join me in the fight for better education funding by attending our annual bus trip to Sacramento and the Education Summit that I am hosting this May.

What does this have to do with my role as County Supervisor? The county, after all, doesn't oversee education. The county focuses on things like health care, social services, and public safety. Did you know that a student's education has an impact on his or her use of county services in the present or future?

A simple illustration of this is that without adequate funding for education more youth get into trouble, are around negative influences, and fewer others graduate ending up in the county's juvenile justice system. This means that the county has a BIG stake in the fight for quality education. With this in mind, as both a parent and as County Supervisor, I am going to continue to fight for better education funding. I hope you will be able to join me at one or both the events being organized for this purpose.

For the past eight years, I have sponsored a one day bus trip to Sacramento. I have taken more than a thousand community members, parents, students, teachers, educational leaders, and others interested in quality education to discuss our concerns with our legislators. We have spoken with our legislators and told them point blank that we are not happy with the funding cuts we are seeing in our schools.

Last year we had a number of students from East Side Union High School District join us as part of a field trip arranged through School Board member Frank Biehl. Their stories provided a real world picture of the impacts that funding cuts have on students. We have received commitments from a number of legislators to stop cutting our school funding. It is very important for us to keep the discussions alive. I am very pleased that this year's trip will be cosponsored by the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. It will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in May (the date will be chosen to maximize attendance of legislators). Please contact my office for specific details regarding the date. The trip, including lunch, is absolutely FREE!

Before we board the bus to Sacramento, we will hold an Education Summit here, locally. The Education Summit will take place on Tuesday, May 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Board Chambers at the County Government Center at 70 W. Hedding St. in San Jose. The Education Summit is a great opportunity for you to share your concerns about cuts at your schools with people from the schools and neighborhoods across the county. We will have a panel of education leaders who can share the history of budget cuts and give a better picture of the future of our county if the cuts are allowed to continue. We will compile this information to drive the discussion with the legislators in Sacramento. So, by attending the Education Summit, your voice will be heard as far away as our state capitol. Who knew your voice could travel so far? After we return, we will put out a summary of the commitments we have received so we can make sure they have kept their word.

Once again, I would like to urge you to join me in the fight for better education funding. Our students need and deserve a high quality education. The future of our county and our nation are at risk if the cuts continue. It is imperative that we get together and make our voices heard in Sacramento. To register for the Education Summit, the Sacramento Bus Trip, or both please visit my website at www.supervisor-cortese.org or call (408) 299-5030. Also, if you are a part of an organization who would like to partner with us for this trip, please e-mail Lara McCabe at lara.mccabe@bos.sccgov.org for details.



County Report

By Dave Cortese
County Supervisor

Notice of Intent Fill Vacancy on Board of Directors of Public Facilities Financing Corporation



Topic: Santa Clara Valley Water District Notice of Intention to Fill Vacancy on Board of Directors of Public Facilities Financing Corporation.

Who: The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County, California. It acts not only as the county's water wholesaler, but also as its flood protection agency and steward for its streams and creeks, underground aquifers and district-built reservoirs.

What: The Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District intends to fill a vacant director position on the Public Facilities Financing Corporation (PFFC).

The PFFC is a nonprofit public benefit corporation whose primary purpose is to provide assistance to the Santa Clara Valley Water District in financing the acquisition, construction and improvement of public buildings, works and equipment for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, together with site development, landscaping, utilities, furnishings and appurtenant and related facilities. The PFFC directors serve as volunteers.

Duties of the PFFC director will be to perform any and all duties imposed by law, by the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, or by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. PFFC directors meet at such times and places as required to conduct Corporation business, usually from one to three times annually.

In order to be eligible for appointment, an interested party must reside within the County of Santa Clara and must continue to reside therein while serving on the PFFC. The Board is seeking interested candidates with experience and understanding of the financial market and the issuance of bonds.

When: Interested parties should notify the Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in writing no later than 2:00 p.m. on April 29, 2011, at 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, 95118. Please submit a letter of interest which includes your name, contact numbers, residential address, occupation, summary of interest in the position, and qualifications and experience.

Information packets can be obtained online at www.valleywater.org or in person at District Headquarters, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

4/2011_G5